UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Gary Rhines

Civil No. 3:18 ev 1643 Plaintiff

:

v. Honorable

Dr. Ball, sued in their individual capacities, and Warden Beth Zalno (PA), : Jury Trial Demand

Dr. Cullen, M.D. Carvajal, Regional Director, Ian Connors, : Admin. National Inmates appeal, Health Service Administrator Mr. Parkin, FCI Allenwood, sued

in their official capacities. JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE ET.AL. Defendant(s)

FILED SCRANTON

AUG 2 0 2018

INTRODUCTION

PER CLERK

This is a Civil Rights action filed by Gary Rhines, pro se, a federal prisoner at FCI Allenwood, for damages and injunctive relief under 28 U.S.C. §1331, alleging denial of medical care in violation of the Eight Amendment to the United States Constitution and Federal Tort claim under 28 U.S.C. §1346(b) alleging medical staff acted neglegently to serious medical needs.

JURISDICTION

1. The court has jurisdiction over the plaintiff's claims of violation of federal constitutional rights under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 28 U.S.C. §1346(b).

- 2. The plaintiff, Gary Rhines was incarcerated at FCI Allenwood, P.O. Box 2000, White Deer, PA 17887 during events described in this complaint.
- 3. Defendants, Dr. David Ball, contractor is being sued in their individual capacity.
- 4. Defendant, MD Carvajal, regional Director is being sued in their individual and official capacities in charge of Regional Appeals.
- 5. Defendant, Ian Connors, Administrator National Inmate Appeals is being sued in their individual and official capacities.
- 6. Defendant Dr. Cullen is being sued in their individual and official capacities, he is (FCI Allenwood) in house doctor.
- 7. Defendant, Beth Zalna PA, is being sued in their individual and official capacities.
- 8. Defendant, Mr. Parkin, Health Services Administrator, is overseer of all PA's in health services is being sued in their individual and official capacities.
- 9. Defendant, Former Warden, Captain S. Spaulding was in charge of all administrative remedys is being sued in their individual and official capacities.

FACTS

Plaintiff Gary Rhines has been complaining of back pains and shoulder problems on or about for two years. My back pains are worse than the shoulder, so I stopped complaining of the shoulder problems and kept reporting the more serious problem which is the plaintiff's back. The plaintiff like to state for the record that the defendant

has given the plaintiff medical treatment. The plaintiff has followed all the requirements set out by his PA, Physical Therapist, Orthopedic surgeon, Warden Captain S. Spaulding, Ian Connors, Administrator National Inmate Appeals and M.D. Carvajal, regional Director, in accordance with program statement 6031.04, Patient Care. The plaintiff's issue is after completing all the requirements by the above medical professionals, the plaintiff went back to sick-call explaining that the medicine does not stop the pain, physical therapy does not stop the pain, exersises for the back does not work, I explained to my PA Beth Zalno, physical therapist, orthopedic surgeon, Warden Capt. S. Spaulding, Ian Connors, M.D. Carvajal, HSA MR. Parkin, Dr. Cullen that all the treatment has failed and I requested an MRI to determine what is causing the pain. Plaintiff has been denied at all levels for MRI, and now everytime I report to sick-call PA Zalno says her hands are tied and she can't do anything for me, that she did all she could do and that I was denied an MRI for clinical reasons. PA Zalno also had a follow up with in-house Dr. Cullen and she state if Dr. Cullen thought that I needed an MRI on my back he would of requested an MRI. Plaintiff had his yearly follow up with in house Dr. Cullen and plaintiff complained of his back issue and requested of Dr. Cullen that he needed an MRI. Plaintiff brought to the doctor's attention that an MRI was denied at all levels when requested. Question? How does the plaintiff receive an MRI when he followed all the requirements rules and Policy under Patient Care Act, and followed all rules by the parties named in this Civil Complaint? Plaintiff likes to state that all the medicine, exersises, loss of weight, therapy, etc.

has not changed the condition of his back pains, and plaintiff is being demied further treatment to determine what is causing the pain. The plaintiff has followed all the rules and requirements as ordered. Plaintiff also was fasting the month of Ramadan for about 29 days and lossed about 15 to 20 pounds. Plaintiff still has the pains. Ramadan was from June 14, 2018 to July 12, 2018.

Medical Dept. is continuing to make plaintiff receive and do treatment that is not solving his back pain.

MEDICAL TIME LINE

- (1) On July 29, 2016, I reported to Sick Call and complained of neck and back pains. I was submitted to see an orthopedic surgeon.
- (2) On August 23, 2016, I was seen by orthopedic surgeon and I and
 I stressed my back and neck problems. I was given pain medication
 and the doctor wrote his report for me to follow.
- (3) On September 16, 2016, I requested for an MRI about my shoulders, neck and back where I complained about pain in these areas.
- (4) On December 22, 2016 I reported to Sick Call and complained about pain in the neck, shoulders and back.
- (5) On January 5, 2017 I complained to PA Zalno about neck, back and shoulder pains.
- (6) On January 9, 2017 I reported my neck, back and shoulder pains to AHSA in the Dining Hall.
- (7) On January 23, 2017 PA visit, I reported neck, shoulders and and back pains.
- (8) On March 29, 2017 I reported to Sick Call and complained about neck, back and shoulder pains.
- (9) On April 18, 2017 I went to see orthopedic surgeon and complained neck, back and shoulder pains.
- (10) On May 1, 2017 I reported to Sick Call and complained of neck, back and shoulder pains.
- (11) On July 10, 2017 I reported to Sick Call and complained of back pains.
- (12) On September 28, 2017 I complained about back problems and pain on the same day. A specialty procedure was submitted for an MRI by Beth Zalno (PA). It was disapproved on 10/5/17.

- (13) On October 17, 2017 I received a visit from the therapist and received exercises on paper to carry out.
- (14) I saw the therapist on November 8, 2017 and an MRI was ordered for back pains.
- (15) On December 12, 2017 I report to Sick Call and request MRI for back pains.
- (16) On December 15, 2017 I report to Sick Call and complain of back pains.
- (17) On January 25, 2018 I sign up for Sick Call and report about my back pains.
- (18) On March 1, 2018 I sign up for Sick Call and complain of back pains.
- (19) On March 6, 2018 I was seen by in house doctor and I complained of back issues and asked him can he check why my MRI was denied. He said he will look into it. I have never heard anything from him on this matter till this day.
- (20) On 6-24-18 around 12pm to 12:20pm, a chair in edcucation Dept.

 broke while I was sitting on it and I fell and hurt my back.

 School teacher Mr. McMullen sent plaintiff to medical and the pharmasicist , gave plaintiff streching excersises.

 I asked him should I see the PA, he said no its just some tightnes from falling. Also, teacher McMullen was a witness to my fall.
- (21) Report to sick-call on 7-20-18, seen by PA Zalno, plaintiff requested an MRI, Ms. Zalno stated she is not putting in another request for MRI and she had a follow up meeting with in-house Dr. Cullen and he stated to her he does not see that plaintiff needs an MRI.

DENIAL OF DUE PROCESS

- 1. On 10-10-18 plaintiff submitted informal resolution request about back pains and requested MRI on 10-11-18. Counselor Segraves returned with the response from my BP-8 and my MRI was denied. Also the recommendations from Dr. Ball's was for MRI so that he can if I need a spinal doctor.
- 2. On 10-12-18 plaintiff submitted administration remedy about back pains and requested an MRI on 10-20-17. Captain S. Spaulding former Warden agreed with the finding and answeres from BP-8 and denied my BP-9.
- 3. On 1026-17 plaintiff submitted to Regional Administrative remedy appeal, plaintiff complained and requested an MRI so there can be a determination as to where the pain in his back. On December 6, 2017 Regional Director M.D. Carvajal denied appeal.
- 4. On 12-15-2017 plaintiff submitted to Central Office an Administrative remedy appeal, requesting an MRI for his back. On 2-2-18 Ian Connors, Administrative National Inmate appeals, denied the request. Above, plaintiff excersised all administrative procedures.

DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE

Plaintiff likes to make clear that Medical has treated plaintiff once the plaintiff followed all the requirements, and orders of medical staff and personel named in this Civil matter. Plaintiff made it clear on mane dates and times when he reported to sick-call to his PA, orthopedic surgeon, AHSA Parkin, therapist and to all

parties at the Administrative remedy levels, BP-8, BP-9, BP-10, and BP-11, that the treatment is not working. On September 28, 2017 I complained about back problems and pain on the same day, a specialty procedurte was submitted for an MRI bt Beth Zalno (PA). It was disapproved on 10-5-17. On 7-20-18 I reported to sick call requesting of PA=Zalono to re-submitt the specialty procedure for an MRI. She said she will not and her hands are tied and she did all she could do on her level. Medical Dept. is continuing to make plaintiff receive and do treatment that is not solving his back pain.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

The plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies with respect to all claims and all defendants, by filing BP-8, BP-9, BP-10, BP-11.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

The action of all defendants in this civil mater who denied plaintiff MRI after he brought to their attention that the current treatment is not working, constitutes deliberate indifference to plaintiff serious medical needs in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and defendants were negligent for intentional actions of prison offciials; injuries caused by unintentional (negligent)actions or omissions by prison official. Staff actions also violate 28 U.S.C. §1346(b)

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests that the court grant the following relief:

- A. Issue a declaratory judgement stating that:
- 1. The delay or denial of plaintiff's medical care by defendnts Beth Zalno, Thomas Cullen, Dr. Ball, AHSA Parkin, Ian Connors, M.D. Carvajal, Capt. S. Spaulding, violatyed the plaintiff's rights under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and negligence under FTCA.
- 2. Defendant's Cullen, Ball, Ian Connors, Carvajal, Spaulding failure to take action to curb the physical pain or denial or delay of medical care of a prisoner violated the plaintiff's rights under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and constituted negligence under FTCA.
- 3. Defendants Spaulding, M.D. Carvajal, Connors, denial of plaintiff's administrative remedies violated the plaintiff's rights under the Due Process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 4. Defendants Cullen, Ball, Ian Connors, Carvajal, Spaulding, Zalno, Parkins. actions in failing to provide adequate medical care for the plaintiff violated and continues to violate the plaintiff's rights under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- B. Issue an injunction ardering defendants Cullen, Ball, Connors, Carvajal. Warden, Zalno, or their agents to:

- 1. Immediately arrange for the plaintiff to resieve an MRI on his back by a qualified physician.
- 2. Immediately arrange for the plaintiff's need for a back specialist, order a follow up medical treatment to be evaluated by medical practitioner with expertise in the treatment and restoration and function of back pains. and;
- 3. Carry out without delay the treatment directed by such medical practitioners.
- C. Tssues an injuction ordering defendants named in civil complaint to:
- 1. Order defendants to order Post surgerv MRI for plaintiff if plaintiff ever recieves surgerv on his back.
 - D. Award compensatory damages in the following amounts:
- 1. \$100.000 jointly and severally against defendants Cullen,
 Dr. Ball, Zalno, Parkin for the physical and emotional injuries
 sustained as a result of the plaintiff's delay and denial of adequate
 medical care.
- 2. \$10.000 jointly and severally against defendants Spaulding, M.D. Carvajal. Connors for the punishment. including deprivation of liberty and amenity, and emotional injury resulting from their denial of duer process in connection with the plaintiff's administrative remedies proceedings.
- 3. \$50,000 jointly and severally against defendants Zalno, Dr. Ball, Dr. Cullen, Parkin for the physical and emotional injury resulting from their failure to provide adrquate medical care to the plaintiff.
 - E. Award punitive damages in the following amounts:

- 1. \$20.000 each against defendants, Dr. Gullen, Dr. Ball, Zalno, Parkin.
- 2. \$30.000 each against defendants Spaulding, M.D. Carvajal, Connors.
- F. Grant such other relief as it may appear that the plaintiff is entitled.

 See Administrative Remedies Affactad

Date: 4/,5/18

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Rhines **#10496-067**

Pro se Litigant

FCI Allenwood

P.O. Box 2000

White Deer, PA 17887

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Gary Rhines

___, hereby certify that I have served a true

and correct copy of the foregoing:	Bivens Action
	Federal Tort Claim under 28 U.S.C. §1346(b)
Which is deemed filed at the time it we	as delivered to prison authorities for forwarding to
the court. Houston vs. Lack. 101 L.Ed.	2d 245 (1988), upon the court and parties to record, by placing same in a sealed, postage
Federal Court Build	ing
235 N. Washington av	' e.
Scranton Pa. 18501	
and deposited same in the United States	s Postal Mail at the United States Penitentiary,
Signed on this 15 day of	
	Respectfully Submitted,
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•	REG. NO. 10496-067

Federal Correctional Institution Allenwood, Pennsylvania

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY PROCEDURE FOR INMATES INFORMAL RESOLUTION FORM

rom BP-9 [BP-229(13)], you must ordinarily a	r to receiving and filing a Request for Administrative Remedy ttempt to informally resolve your complaint through your mplaint below and list what efforts you have made to resolve of staff contacted.
Issued By: (Initials of Correct Date Issued To the Inmate: 10-10-)	tional Counselor)
sports restriction I seen placed o	this prison Denied my MRI. Dr Ball Therefore and MRT so he can forward be Mer Let us !! not submitted by the can forward be men
2. Efforts you have made to resolve:	- been to sick coll -
3. Names of staff you contacted: <u>fa</u>	Zalno / And norse Bloom
V	10-10-17 96-067 10/10/72
CORRECTIONAL COUNSELOR'S COMMENT Efforts made to informally resolve and sta	-
Date BP-9 Issued:	Correctional Counselor
·	Unit Manager (Date)

<u>Distribution</u>: If complaint is <u>NOT</u> informally resolved - Forward original attached to BP-9 Form to the Executive Assistant.

Rhines,Gary Reg. No. 10496-067 Page 1

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY PROCEDURE FOR INMATES INFORMAL RESOLUTION RESPONSE

This is in response to your Informal Resolution.

Per your Physician Assistan (PA)t, your EMG test was denied given you have not taken the basic steps of weight loss to address your back pain concerns. Additionally, your x-ray of your lumbar spine after you raised concerns of having back pain for over two years was completed on January 11, 2017, which resulted in typical findings for a 44 year old aged male. This report along with Dr. Ball's recommendations were reviewed by your PA and the physician and there is insufficient medical support to pursue an MRI at this time.

MRI tests require a high threshold of medical justification in order to be approved at the regional level. Simply put, you do not have that medical justification at this time. You are encourage to discuss a weight loss program with your PA and we can re-evaluate this decision after the weight loss occurs.

T. Segraves, Counselor

Case 3:18-cv-01643-MEM-DB Document 1 Filed 08/20/18 Page 15 of 21

6.5. Gepartment of Justice

REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY

11-12-1

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Type or use ball-point pen. If attachments are needed, submit four copies. Additional instructions on reverse.

From:	HINES	GARY	10 4 96 - 067 REG. NO.	2A	FCI ALLENWOOD
	LAST NAME, FIRST,	MIDDLE INITIAL	REG. NO.	UNIT	INSTITUTION
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ran B- K	ESPONSE				

See attacked

	DATE	W	ARDEN OR REGIONAL	DIRECTOR
If dissatisfied wit	h this response, you may appeal to the Regional Director. Your appe	al must be received in the Region	nal Office within 20 calendar	days of the date of this response.
SECOND C	OPY: RETURN TO INMATE		CASE NUMBER:	1832/0-1
Part C- RE	СЕІРТ	•	CASE NUMBER:	
Return to: _	LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL	REG. NO.	UNIT	INSTITUTION
SUBJECT:			· ·	

Rhines, Gary Reg. No. 10496-067 Appeal No. 918256-F1

Part B - Response

This is in response to your request for administrative remedy received October 13, 2017, wherein you allege medical is denying you further treatment. As relief, you request to be provided with an MRI to further investigate a cause for your lower back pain.

A thorough review of your medical file was completed on October 17, 2017. Per your Physician Assistant (PA), your EMG test was denied given you have not taken the basic steps of weight loss to address your back pain concerns. Additionally, the x-ray of your lumbar spine was completed on January 11, 2017, which resulted in typical findings for a 44-year old male. Your PA and the physician reviewed this report, along with the orthopedic surgeon's recommendations, and there is insufficient medical support to pursue an MRI at this time.

MRI tests require a high threshold of medical justification in order to be approved at the regional level. You do not have that medical justification at this time. You are encouraged to discuss a weight loss program with your PA. We can re-evaluate this decision after the weight loss occurs. Although you may have lost some weight, it has been very sporadic with ups and downs.

Accordingly, this response to your request for administrative remedy is for informational purposes only. If you are not satisfied with this response, you may appeal to the Regional Director within 20 calendar days of this response.

CAPT S. Spaulding, Warden

Date

U.S. Aepartment of Justice

Regional Administrative Remedy Appeal

1075

Federal Bureau of Prisons

	_	
	TO INC.	One copy of the completed BP-229(13) including any attachments must be submitted
Type or use hall-point pen.	It attachments are needed, submit four copress	One copy of the completed Dr -223(13) including any attachments must be satisfied
Type of our out point point		•••

with this appeal.	C 4514	101101 017	7 1	Allegues / Fri
From: RHIM	es GAR 9	10976-067	L 4	INSTITUTION
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Part A · REASON	FOR APPEAL THIS	10496-067 A Medical or ocor S an Appeal from	M BP-	9. The Denial
of my M	ledical Issue	has not seen in	vestigate	d. I request sq
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10/26/17	I should not h	the pain is coming for denied treatment	OTOLIA PIETE O	Say Khinz
DATE	because of M-c	dicy/ budger IDSVe	SIGNATURE OF	r KEQUESTERY

Part B - RESPONSE

Received

DEC 1 1 2017

DATE

FCI Alienwood Associate Warden's Office			
DATE		REGIONAL DIRECT	OR
If dissatisfied with this response, you may appeal to the General Coundays of the date of this response.	sel. Your appeal must be received in the Go	\mathcal{O}	130 calendar 11825021
ORIGINAL: RETURN TO INMATE		CASE NUMBER:	
Part C - RECEIPT		CASE NUMBER:	
Return to: LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL SUBJECT:	REG. NO.	UNIT	INSTITUTION
SUBJECT:			,

SIGNATURE, RECIPIENT OF REGIONAL APPEAL

BP-230(13)

RHINES, Gary
Reg. No. 10496-067
Appeal No. 918256-R1
Page One

Part B - Response

You appeal the response of the Warden at FCI Allenwood and contend you are not receiving appropriate medical treatment for chronic back pain. You claim you have lost weight as recommended, but you are still having pain. You request a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan to diagnose your condition.

A review of your appeal reveals the Warden adequately addressed your concerns in his response. According to your Bureau Electronic Medical Record (BEMR), you were evaluated by an Orthopedic surgeon on August 23, 2017. Your lumbar x-rays were reviewed, which revealed negative findings, and your physical examination revealed tenderness on your right side. An electromyography (EMG) and MRI scan were recommended; however, they were subsequently denied. Based on your medical assessments and Body Mass Index (BMI), conservative measures were recommended, including physical therapy and weight loss. October 17, 2017, and November 8, 2017, you were evaluated by the Physical Therapist for chronic back pain. Therapy was unsuccessful, and an MRI scan was submitted for further evaluation. You will be notified consultation is currently pending approval. once a decision has been made. According to your medical record, you are being evaluated and treated in accordance with Program Statement 6031.04, Patient Care. Accordingly, your appeal is denied.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may appeal to the General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons. Your appeal must be received in the Administrative Remedy Section, Office of General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20534, within 30 calendar days of the date of this response.

Date: December 6, 2017

Regional Director

Received

DEC 1 1 2017

FCI Allenwood Associate Warden's Office U.S. Department of Justice Case 3:18-cv-01643-MEM-DB Document 1 Filed 08/20/18 Page 19 of 21 Appeal

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Type or use ball-point pen. If attachments are needed, submit four of ments must be submitted with this appeal.	copies. One copy each of the com	pleted BP-DIR-9 and BP	-DIR-10, including any attach-
From: RHINES CARY LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE INFTIAL	10496-067 REG. NO.	ZA P	ALLENWOOD INSTITUTION
Part A-REASON FOR APPEAL This is an	Appeal from	BP-10 01	Dec 11, 2017
Reason for this appeal is I wa	S coursel by M	y P-A. P	hysical Therap
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Request for the centeral off	ice to approve	d a MRI	, so it can help
determend why I'm having bai	CK painsi	Sam	Phins
DATE		SIGNATURE OF	REQUESTER

Part B-RESPONSE

RECEIVED

DEC 26 7017

Administrative Hernedy Section Federal Bureau of Prienns

DATE		GENERAL COUNSEL		
ORIGINAL: RE	TURN TO INMATE		CASE NUMBER:	918256-A1
Part C—RECEIPT			CASE NUMBER:	
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DATE J8P LVN		SIGNATURE OF RECIPI	ENT OF CENTRAL OFFICE AP	PEAL 8P-231(

Administrative Remedy No. 918256-A1 Part B - Response

This is in response to your Central Office Administrative Remedy Appeal wherein you allege all treatment regimens have been unsuccessful, yet you still were denied a consult for an MRI. You contend you continue to suffer from back pain after completing all the recommedations made by the guidelines of Program Statement 6031.04, Patient Care. For relief, you request an MRI to determine the cause of the pain.

We have reviewed documentation relevant to your appeal and, based on our findings, concur with the manner in which the Warden and Regional Director responded to your concerns at the time of your Request for Administrative Remedy and subsequent appeal. Our succeeding review reveals the consult submitted for an MRI was disapproved with recommedations to continue symptomatic treatment. Therefore, at this time, your clinician has found insufficient diagnostic data to make a clinical determination of the need for a MRI.

You should be aware Program Statement 6031.04, provides that the Clinical Director is under no obligation to follow consultant recommendations. If a specific intervention is not pursued, Health Services staff will provide continual monitoring and ongoing treatment for your condition as necessary. If you are having issues, you need to request sick call for your complaints. Your primary care team will continue to make recommendations as needed. As recommendations are made, a course of treatment will be determined. Given this, we shall defer diagnostic testing and treatment interventions to the Health Services staff at the local level.

Based on this information, there is no evidence to substantiate your claim of being denied appropriate medical care.

The record reflects you have received medical care and treatment in accordance with evidence based standard of care and within the scope of services of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. You are encouraged to comply with proposed medical treatment so Health Services can continue to provide essential care and to contact medical personnel through routine sick call procedures should your condition change.

Considering the foregoing, your appeal is denied.

7 /2/18 Date

Ian Connors, Administrator National Inmate Appeals

